

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently amended) A method for provisioning databases for users on a wide area  
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:  
3 a first party managing one or more database systems;  
4 a plurality of second parties subscribing to database services supported by the one  
5 or more database systems managed by the first party, wherein the database  
6 services include services for storing and managing data provided by the  
7 second parties; and  
8 providing, over a network, to database applications controlled by the second  
9 parties, access to the database services to which the second parties are  
10 subscribed.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
2 at least one of said second parties is an application service provider that provides  
3 application services to a plurality of third parties over said network; and  
4 the step of providing access to the database services includes providing database  
5 services to an application used by said application service provider to  
6 provide said application services to said third parties.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

2 receiving over said network a request to perform a database management operation  
3 from a user associated with a particular second party of said plurality of  
4 second parties; and  
5 responding to said request by performing said database management operation on  
6 one or more databases controlled by said first party without human  
7 intervention by said first party.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more database systems are  
2 implemented on a set of database devices that include a plurality of database appliances, a  
3 database appliance comprising database software and non-database software tailored to the  
4 needs of the database software.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing access over a network  
2 includes providing access over a public network of computer networks.

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1 6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of performing the database  
2 management operation involves allocating a different amount of resources to said  
3 particular second party than is currently allocated for said particular second party.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering to a party  
2 over the network one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that  
3 allow the party to subscribe to said database services provided by said first party.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the user interfaces contain controls for  
2 specifying user profile information, payment information, and selection of database  
3 services.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering over the  
2 network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to access a database for a database  
4 service to which said one of said second parties has subscribed.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

2 the first party also provides database application services over said network; and

3 the method further comprises the step of delivering over the network, to a user

4 associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which

5 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to access a database

6 application service to which said one of said second parties has subscribed.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering over the  
2 network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to indicate changes to at least one of  
4 profile information, payment information, and the selection of services to which said one  
5 of said second parties is subscribed.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering over the  
2 network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which

3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to supply content for a subscribed  
4 database.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering over the  
2 network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to develop a new database  
4 application.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering over the  
2 network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to integrate an external service.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering over the  
2 network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that present a status of a user subscribed resource  
4 selected from database resources managed by said first party.

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1 16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2 delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties,  
3 one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that present  
4 the user with a user-selectable representation of a wizard for building a Web  
5 page with a database component associated with an interface to a database;  
6 receiving user input indicating the wizard; and  
7 executing said wizard, including presenting a series of screens to the user to prompt  
8 user input for building the Web page.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of the first party  
2 updating the one or more database systems by receiving from a community server over the  
3 network an update to the one or more database systems, wherein the community server  
4 provides the update to a plurality of service providers over said network.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of the first party sending  
2 to a community server a status of a user subscribed resource, wherein the user subscribed  
3 resource is maintained by said first party.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to a user associated  
2 with said first party a user interface to allow said first party to configure a database device  
3 used to provide said database services as one of a dedicated device and a plurality of  
4 virtual devices.

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1 20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to a user associated  
2 with said first party a user interface to allow said first party to configure at least one of a  
3 dedicated device and a virtual device of a plurality of virtual devices as one of a staging  
4 device available only to a database service developer for developing database services, and  
5 a production device for making database services available to a user who is not the  
6 database service developer.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising presenting a user interface for  
2 transferring an application from a staging device to a production device.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein:

2 the step of delivering to a party over the network one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the party to subscribe to said  
4 database services is performed as part of a registration process;  
5 the interfaces include controls for receiving a user input value for a maximum  
6 amount of subscribed resources; and  
7 the method further includes the step of presenting an alert if an amount of  
8 subscribed resources consumed by said party exceeds a threshold  
9 percentage of the maximum amount of subscribed resources.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

2 receiving a user input value for a particular threshold percentage; and  
3 presenting an alert if an amount of resources consumed by said party exceeds the  
4 particular threshold percentage of the maximum amount of subscribed  
5 resources.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the maximum amount of subscribed  
2 resources includes a maximum amount of at least one of

3 an amount of storage space,  
4 a number of users connected to a platform in a period of time,  
5 an amount of processor time used in a period of time, and  
6 a number of transactions completed in a period of time.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

2 presenting to the user a set of selectable sources of content;

3 receiving user input indicating a selected source; and  
4 launching a source update process to connect to the selected source and update a  
5 database with information received from the selected sources.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein  
2 the user input indicating a selected source also indicates a schedule for updating  
3 from the selected source; and  
4 the source update process connects to the selected source according to the schedule  
5 for updating from the selected source.

1 27. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:  
2 in response to user input that specifies that data should be loaded into a subscribed  
3 database, determining whether the subscribed database currently exists for  
4 said one of said second parties; and  
5 creating the subscribed database if the subscribed database does not currently exist  
6 for said one of said second parties.

1 28. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:  
2 presenting representations of selectable application development kits;  
3 receiving user input indicating a selected development kit from the user; and  
4 launching a staging process including  
5 configuring consumable database resources on a staging database device, wherein a  
6 staging database device can be accessed by the user for developing the new

7 database application and cannot be accessed by users associated with other  
8 parties of said plurality of second parties,  
9 receiving development input from the user; and  
10 building a new application on the staging database device based on the selected  
11 development kit and the development input.

A2 1 29. (Original) The method of claim 28, the step of developing the new database  
2 application further comprising the steps of  
3 after receiving user input indicating a selected development kit, determining  
4 whether a client process of the selected development kit must be  
5 downloaded to a computer of the user over the wide area network; and  
6 if it is determined the client process of the selected development kit must be  
7 downloaded, downloading the client process to the computer of the user  
8 over the wide area network before the step of building the new application.

1 30. (Original) The method of claim 28, the step of developing a new database application  
2 further comprising the steps of:  
3 receiving input from the user indicating the new application is ready for operational  
4 use; and  
5 in response to receiving input from the user indicating the new application is ready  
6 for operational use, launching a production transfer process including  
7 sending a request to the first party to transfer the new application to a  
8 production device on which the new application may be accessed by users  
9 who did not develop the new application.



1 31. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising integrating the external service,  
2 wherein the step of integrating comprises the steps of:

3 presenting a representation of a selectable external service;

4 receiving user input indicating a selected external service; and

5 launching an integration process to provide the external service to the user.

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the selectable external service includes at  
2 least one of a payment service, a mobile Internet portal, an enterprise resource planning  
3 application, and a customer relationship management application.

1 33. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the first party performing at least  
2 one of the steps of:

3 setting up database parameters;

4 reporting database usage;

5 backing up the database;

6 upgrading the database;

7 controlling database versions;

8 implementing database security; and

9 implementing data security within the database.

1 34. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2 if a costing database does not already exist, then

3 automatically creating the costing database of database resource usage by user, and

4 initiating a costing model with price per unit of consumable resource per service;

5 inserting data into the costing database based on actual use of database resources by  
6 the user;  
7 executing the costing model to compute a cost-per-user based on the data in the  
8 costing database and the price per unit of consumable resource per service;  
9 and  
10 billing the user for the cost computed by the costing model.

1 35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the costing model supports:

2 fixed price per unit of usage;  
3 variable price per unit usage as a function of usage;  
4 flat price up to a maximum value of usage;  
5 different prices for different users;  
6 different prices for different services; and  
7 different prices for increments of usage above a maximum subscribed usage.

1 36. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for

2 provisioning databases for users on a wide area network, the instructions comprising  
3 instructions for performing the steps of:

4 a first party managing one or more database systems;  
5 a plurality of second parties subscribing to database services supported by the one  
6 or more database systems managed by the first party, wherein the database  
7 services include services for storing and managing data provided by the  
8 second parties; and

9 providing, over a network, to database applications controlled by the second  
10 parties, access to the database services to which the second parties are  
11 subscribed.

1 37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein:  
2 at least one of said second parties is an application service provider that provides  
3 application services to a plurality of third parties over said network; and  
4 the step of providing access to the database services includes providing database  
5 services to an application used by said application service provider to  
6 provide said application services to said third parties.

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1 38. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:  
3 receiving over said network a request to perform a database management operation  
4 from a user associated with a particular second party of said plurality of  
5 second parties; and  
6 responding to said request by performing said database management operation on  
7 one or more databases controlled by said first party without human  
8 intervention by said first party.

1 39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the one or more  
2 database systems are implemented on a set of database devices that include a plurality of

3 database appliances, a database appliance comprising database software and non-database  
4 software tailored to the needs of the database software.

1 40. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the step of providing  
2 access over a network includes providing access over a public network of computer  
3 networks.

1 41. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 38 wherein the step of performing  
2 the database management operation involves allocating a different amount of resources to  
3 said particular second party than is currently allocated for said particular second party.

1 42. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering to a party over the network one or more messages  
3 which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the party to subscribe to said database  
4 services provided by said first party.

1 43. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the user interfaces  
2 contain controls for specifying user profile information, payment information, and  
3 selection of database services.

1 44. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of  
3 said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that  
4 allow the user to access a database for a database service to which said one of said second  
5 parties has subscribed.

1 45. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein:  
2 the first party also provides database application services over said network; and  
3 the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions for performing the  
4 step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said  
5 second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user  
6 interfaces that allow the user to access a database application service to  
7 which said one of said second parties has subscribed.

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1 46. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with  
3 one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user  
4 interfaces that allow the user to indicate changes to at least one of profile  
5 information, payment information, and the selection of services to which said one  
6 of said second parties is subscribed.

1 47. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with  
3 one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user  
4 interfaces that allow the user to supply content for a subscribed database.

1 48. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with

3 one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user  
4 interfaces that allow the user to develop a new database application.

1 49. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with  
3 one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user  
4 interfaces that allow the user to integrate an external service.

1 50. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with  
3 one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user  
4 interfaces that present a status of a user subscribed resource selected from database  
5 resources managed by said first party.

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1 51. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:  
3 delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties,  
4 one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that present  
5 the user with a user-selectable representation of a wizard for building a Web  
6 page with a database component associated with an interface to a database;  
7 receiving user input indicating the wizard; and  
8 executing said wizard, including presenting a series of screens to the user to prompt  
9 user input for building the Web page.

1 52. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of the first party updating the one or more database systems by  
3 receiving from a community server over the network an update to the one or more database  
4 systems, wherein the community server provides the update to a plurality of service  
5 providers over said network.

1 53. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the step of the first party sending to a community server a status of a  
3 user subscribed resource, wherein the user subscribed resource is maintained by  
4 said first party.

A2 1 54. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for presenting to a user associated with said first party a user interface to allow said first  
3 party to configure a database device used to provide said database services as one of a  
4 dedicated device and a plurality of virtual devices.

1 55. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for presenting to a user associated with said first party a user interface to allow said first  
3 party to configure at least one of a dedicated device and a virtual device of a plurality of  
4 virtual devices as one of a staging device available only to a database service developer for  
5 developing database services, and a production device for making database services  
6 available to a user who is not the database service developer.

1 56. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 55, further comprising instructions  
2 for presenting a user interface for transferring an application from a staging device  
3 to a production device.

1 57. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein:  
2 the step of delivering to a party over the network one or more messages which  
3 cause generation of user interfaces that allow the party to subscribe to said  
4 database services is performed as part of a registration process;  
5 the interfaces include controls for receiving a user input value for a maximum  
6 amount of subscribed resources; and  
7 the computer-readable medium further includes instructions for the step of  
8 presenting an alert if an amount of subscribed resources consumed by said  
9 party exceeds a threshold percentage of the maximum amount of subscribed  
10 resources.

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1 58. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 57, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:  
3 receiving a user input value for a particular threshold percentage; and  
4 presenting an alert if an amount of resources consumed by said party exceeds the  
5 particular threshold percentage of the maximum amount of subscribed  
6 resources.



1 59. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 57, wherein the maximum amount  
2 of subscribed resources includes a maximum amount of at least one of  
3 an amount of storage space,  
4 a number of users connected to a platform in a period of time,  
5 an amount of processor time used in a period of time, and  
6 a number of transactions completed in a period of time.

1 60. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:  
3 presenting to the user a set of selectable sources of content;  
4 receiving user input indicating a selected source; and  
A2 5 launching a source update process to connect to the selected source and update a  
6 database with information received from the selected sources.

1 61. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 60, wherein  
2 the user input indicating a selected source also indicates a schedule for updating  
3 from the selected source; and  
4 the source update process connects to the selected source according to the schedule  
5 for updating from the selected source.

1 62. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:

3 in response to user input that specifies that data should be loaded into a subscribed  
4 database, determining whether the subscribed database currently exists for  
5 said one of said second parties; and  
6 creating the subscribed database if the subscribed database does not currently exist  
7 for said one of said second parties.

1 63. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 48, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:

3 presenting representations of selectable application development kits;  
4 receiving user input indicating a selected development kit from the user; and  
5 launching a staging process including  
6 configuring consumable database resources on a staging database device, wherein a  
7 staging database device can be accessed by the user for developing the new  
8 database application and cannot be accessed by users associated with other  
9 parties of said plurality of second parties,  
10 receiving development input from the user; and  
11 building a new application on the staging database device based on the selected  
12 development kit and the development input.

1 64. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 63, the step of developing the new  
2 database application further comprising the steps of

3 after receiving user input indicating a selected development kit, determining  
4 whether a client process of the selected development kit must be  
5 downloaded to a computer of the user over the wide area network; and

6 if it is determined the client process of the selected development kit must be  
7 downloaded, downloading the client process to the computer of the user  
8 over the wide area network before the step of building the new application.

1 65. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 63, the step of developing a new  
2 database application further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving input from the user indicating the new application is ready for operational  
4 use; and

5 in response to receiving input from the user indicating the new application is ready  
6 for operational use, launching a production transfer process including  
7 sending a request to the first party to transfer the new application to a  
8 production device on which the new application may be accessed by users  
9 who did not develop the new application.

1 66. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 49, further comprising instructions  
2 for integrating the external service, wherein the step of integrating comprises the steps of:

3 presenting a representation of a selectable external service;

4 receiving user input indicating a selected external service; and

5 launching an integration process to provide the external service to the user.

1 67. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 66, wherein the selectable external  
2 service includes at least one of a payment service, a mobile Internet portal, an enterprise  
3 resource planning application, and a customer relationship management application.

1 68. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for the first party performing at least one of the steps of:

3       setting up database parameters;  
4       reporting database usage;  
5       backing up the database;  
6       upgrading the database;  
7       controlling database versions;  
8       implementing database security; and  
9       implementing data security within the database.

1 69. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:

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3       if a costing database does not already exist, then  
4       automatically creating the costing database of database resource usage by user, and  
5       initiating a costing model with price per unit of consumable resource per service;  
6       inserting data into the costing database based on actual use of database resources by  
7       the user;  
8       executing the costing model to compute a cost-per-user based on the data in the  
9       costing database and the price per unit of consumable resource per service;  
10       and  
11       billing the user for the cost computed by the costing model.

- A2
- 1 70. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 68, wherein the costing model  
2 supports:  
3 fixed price per unit of usage;  
4 variable price per unit usage as a function of usage;  
5 flat price up to a maximum value of usage;  
6 different prices for different users;  
7 different prices for different services; and  
8 different prices for increments of usage above a maximum subscribed usage.
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